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TREASURER FONG URGES SUPPORT FOR CONSOLIDATION BILL
'Measure Will Streamline Government Operations'

SACRAMENTO--State Treasurer Matt Fong today said that Senate Bill 611 (Killea) gives the Legislature the opportunity to streamline government, save taxpayers money, and improve service to the state.

Under the provisions of the bill, which passed the Assembly today by a 58-0 vote and is headed to the Senate for concurrence, 13 boards authorities and commissions would be consolidated into five financing programs under Fong's authority.

The proposal is nearly identical to one passed last year during budget deliberations, Senate Bill 1345. However, that measure was vetoed by Gov. Wilson because of the composition of one of the authorities. That issue has been resolved and Treasurer Fong sees a great opportunity to improve the efficiency of state government.

"Government needs to work better for the people of this state and this bill would save taxpayers money, make government more efficient by eliminating duplicative functions, and eliminate political appointments," said Fong. "This is a good bill for the Treasurer's office, and the people of California, because it will simplify operations and improve delivery of services."

The proposed legislation would eliminate the Local Agency Indebtedness Fund Loan Program, California Passenger Rail Financing Commission and Housing Bond Credit Committee.

Under the terms of the measure, the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority, California Industrial Development Financing Advisory Commission, California Urban Waterfront Area Restoration Financing Authority, and California Pollution Control Financing Authority would be consolidated into the California Private Activity Bond Financing Authority.

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Three other financing agencies, including the California Educational Facilities Authority, California Health Facilities Financing Authority and California School Finance Authority would be consolidated into the California Health and Educational Financing Authority.

These actions would eliminate five exempt and two civil service positions and reclassifies one exempt position as a career executive assignment.

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